

Local Notes.

Rewarding a Merit Hero.

Congressman Hager, of the Ninth Iowa District, will introduce a bill in Congress to admit Osborne Deignan, one of the Merit heroes, to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. The City Council of Stuart passed a resolution some weeks ago requesting the Secretary of the Navy to admit Deignan to the Naval Academy, but Secretary Long declined to do so because Deignan was a trifle over age, and the Secretary was opposed to establish such precedent. A special act of Congress will be necessary to get him in.

Powderly an Enemy to Lab. r.

The Washington Building Trades Council, by a unanimous vote, has instructed its Secretary to communicate with Hon. Terence V. Powderly, commissioner of Emigration and former Grand Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, and request him to employ union labor upon the handsome new residence which he is erecting in Cleveland Park. It was reported to the council last night that all of the men employed by Mr. Powderly in the various trades in the erection of his residence are "scabs," and in view of the fact that Mr. Powderly for a number of years occupied the highest position in the gift of organized labor in the United States, it was the undivided opinion of the council that he was dealing unfairly and should unioize.

Dean of the Senate.

Senator Justin Smith Morrill, senior Senator from Vermont and the dean of the U. S. Senate, has taken up his residence in this city for the winter. Now in his eighty-ninth year with a continuous service of almost forty-four years in Congress, the first twelve years in the House, he is enjoying good health, attends promptly to all the recess duties of his office, and discusses public questions with the interest of a first term Senator. He goes to the Capitol nearly every day, spending a portion of his time at the Committee on Finance, of which he is chairman. He took his seat in the Senate as a Union Republican, March 4, 1867, to succeed Lake P. Poland. Before his entrance into public life, prior to the civil war, he was a merchant in the town of Strafford, where he was born and has always resided. Afterwards he engaged in agricultural pursuits. His name was most prominently known while in the House from the famous Morrill tariff, which was framed by him and passed by Congress during the civil war.

Trading the War Tax.

The Post-office Department has discovered the existence of a combine of speculative mail contractors looking to control of the bids and evasion of the 50-cent war tax imposed on their contract bonds. Some weeks ago the department was approached with a view to ascertaining its attitude on such organization, and prompt notice was given that it would be regarded as illegitimate. Notwithstanding this, the department authorities have found that a considerable number of these bidders or agents have gotten together to form an arrangement for opening their own bids, and selecting ostensibly the lowest for filing with the department, suppressing the others, and thus also saving the revenue accruing to the government from the large number of competitive bids submitted.

One idea of the interests involved may be gained by the fact that under contracts to be let under the general advertisement of September 13 last, to which the organization of these bidders immediately looks over 200,000 bids ordinarily would be submitted for contracts for carrying mail on routes in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. The contracts are to be for four years from July 1, 1899.

Trading Stamps Again.

Prosecutions similar to those against the trading stamp companies, which were successful in this city last year, are about to begin against the Merchandise Investment Company and Harry King, manager of King's Palace. Prosecutor Pugh is the complainant on two warrants issued on information secured by Detective Baur.

The Merchandise Investment Company, of 629 F street northwest, is said to operate a sort of endless chain scheme, the company furnishing books of coupons to business firms, who give them away, at first. Those to whom the books are given, sell the coupons, each of which entitles the holder to a book of coupons. When all the coupons in a book have been sold and the cash for them turned in, the coupon seller is entitled to a certain amount of goods for selling all the coupons in his book.

The plan worked by the King's Palace management is said to be precisely similar to the trading stamp affair, and the coupon books used are said to be those of the National Trading Stamp Company, which was forced out of business last year, the heading on the sheets being changed with a rubber stamp.

The Centennial of the Capital. The centennial celebration of the founding of the Capital City promises to be an event of magnificent proportions. At a conference with the local committee on arrangements, held at the White House Monday morning, President McKinley evinced strong personal interest in the plans, and also offered several suggestions. The celebration will be one of national import.

According to the plan presented at the conference Monday morning, a local committee of distinguished citizens is to co-operate with two other committees, one consisting of the Governors of all the States and the other a joint committee of the two houses of Congress. The President suggested that Congress be petitioned to give the President power to act in the matter, while he also promised to include a suggestion for the celebration in his annual message next month. It has also been suggested that some fitting monument should be built in memory of the occasion.

The local committee in charge, consists of the following gentlemen: James G. Berret, A. T. Britton, C. J. Bell, M. M. Parker, R. Ross Perry, John Joy Edson, J. W. Thompson, T. W. Noyes, and Lawrence Gardner, all of whom have had experience in conducting matters of this kind, six of them having acted as Chairmen of inaugural ceremonies.

INFORMATION FOR BREWERS AND OTHERS.

Republicans Will Punish Brewers.

The Republicans are to show their power, gained by a small plurality, with a heavy hand and thug like fierceness which would do credit to a Chicago highwayman. Thomas C. Platt showed this when he said last week at the Fifth Avenue Hotel:

"We are going to have pure beer now, it may cost a trifle more, but it will be pure."

As the Republican boss said these few significant words there was a malicious twinkle in his eye that spoke volumes.

The brewers of Greater New York, who supported Van Wyck to a man, are to be punished. The Legislature will be instructed to make it hot for them, and by doing this the retail liquor dealers will be reached and punished as well.

Threat was made before the election by an ex Police Commissioner high in the councils of the Republican party, that if a Republican Legislature was elected New York city would see such a turning over as was never heard of. This scheme against the brewers is probably the first move in the direction of retaliation.

The scheme of the Republicans is to have the Legislature pass a law placing a heavy revenue tax on breweries, amounting to perhaps \$25,000 each, and also to provide for a "standard" of purity for beer impossible to live up to. Republican inspectors will be appointed, who will be instructed to enforce the law to the very limit.

The "pure beer" bill will be similar to the bill introduced by Senator Ford two years ago, but with a revenue robbery attachment.

Col. Jacob Ruppert, Jr., elected to Congress last week by Tammany, denounced the scheme as a Platt plan to get even with New York for giving Van Wyck a majority. Said he: "The beer manufactured in this State today is as pure as it can possibly be. It is in no way adulterated, and any intimation to the contrary on the part of the Republicans is simply for the purpose of creating the impression in the minds of the public that the necessity for such legislation exists. The State Board of Health has full power to see that beer is not adulterated."

President Clarkson, of the Brewers' Association, denounced the scheme as blackmail, and every brewer in the city is in arms over the idea. The retail liquor dealers are also worked up, and a meeting of the Liquor Dealers' Association will be held in a few days to consider the matter.

Senator Ford, the author of the previous pure beer bill, gleefully admitted that the scheme against the brewers and liquor dealers is to be pushed through.

Book Notices.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC. By Edmond Rostand, translated by Gertrude Hall. Doubleday & McClure Co., Publishers. New York. Brentano's, Washington.

After M. Rostand himself, no one is so largely responsible for Cyrano's reputation as Coquelin, the great French actor, who has made the part famous everywhere. This luxurious edition has an added interest by reason of its illustrations, which are from actual scenes of the play as performed in Paris. The Gascon Cyrano is so utterly French that these telling pictures are particularly valuable to an American in getting the exact feeling of his character. The frontispiece to the book is a portrait of the real Cyrano de Berg rac, the historical figure upon whom M. Rostand modeled his captivating hero.

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A GUNNER ABOARD THE YANKEE. The diary of a gunner on the After Post Gun. Doubleday & McClure Co., Publishers. New York. Brentano, Washington.

On the third day of May, while Cervara's whereabouts was still an absorbing mystery, the Yankee (an auxiliary cruiser, converted from the steamship El Norte) went into commission at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. She was manned entirely, save for the captain, executive officer, navigator, paymaster, and the marine guard, by the New York State Naval Militia. For four months she remained in commission, weaving the threads of a glorious record which will ever redound to the credit and honor of the Volunteer Naval Reserve. Number Five's diary was written simply for his family, but the fame gained by the Yankee leads the publishers to believe that it will prove interesting to Americans far and wide. It is set forth in narrative form, but the incidents and the straightforward, simple, and sailor like words of those of the actual participant.

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